

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A water-purifying solid material for microbially purifying water, consisting essentially of a processed non-synthetic natural raw material comprising:
a polysaccharide as principal component; and
nitrogen at a C/N ratio of 6 or more;
wherein the water purifying solid material has a solubility in water that is lower compared to ~~[[the]]~~ a corresponding unprocessed non-synthetic natural raw material before it is processed into the water-purifying solid material.

2. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the ~~natural raw~~ processed non-synthetic material comprises at least one grain selected from the group consisting of rice, glutinous rice, elephant foot, corn, potato and sweet potato, and the polysaccharide is starch.

3. (Previously Presented) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 2, wherein the starch has a C/N ratio of 8 or more.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the water-purifying solid material is in ~~in~~ a porous shape.

7. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the water-purifying solid material is capable of being used for growing an aquatic creature.

8. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the processing processed non-synthetic material has been subjected to includes a drying treatment.

9. (Previously Presented) A water-purifying method, comprising placing the water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1 in a poor-oxygen region of water to be purified.

10. (Previously Presented) The water-purifying method according to Claim 9, wherein 0.1 to 5 g of the water-purifying solid material is added as an organic carbon source in 1 L of water to be purified.